



The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

August 24, 2012

Mr. Ronald L. Sargent
Chairman & Chief Executive Officer
Staples
500 Staples Drive
Framingham, MA 01702

Dear Mr. Sargent:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Better Buildings Challenge.

As a partner in the Better Buildings Challenge, we appreciate your involvement — as a business and/or community leader — to help demonstrate that higher performance buildings cut costs, create jobs, and save energy. Your commitment to back up good ideas with action, share your successes, and create solutions for others to follow will help expand the market for energy upgrades and efficient technologies. With your support, and the assistance of other Challenge partners, we will help make commercial and industrial buildings in this country 20 percent more efficient by 2020 — saving American organizations more than \$40 billion in energy costs.

We look forward to working with you and recognizing your innovations and success. As a partner with you in the Better Buildings Challenge, the Department of Energy stands ready to provide technical assistance and expertise to achieve our shared goals.

Thank you again for stepping up and leading the way. I am encouraged that our cooperative partnership will be productive and set a new standard in energy efficiency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Steven Chu".

Steven Chu

cc: John Lynch
Bob Valair

